



November 16, 2006

Fake doctor is ordered to pay \$1.4 million restitution to 338 clients he victimized with phony treatment programs

A federal judge today ordered **John E. Curran**, a self-styled “natural healer” who presented himself as a medical doctor, to pay approximately \$1.4 million in restitution to 338 clients that he victimized. Curran is serving a 150-month prison sentence for fraud.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the restitution order, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. It was the second phase of Curran’s sentencing; Judge Lisi imposed the prison sentence in August.

In May, a federal jury found Curran guilty of using misleading diagnostic techniques to sell treatment plans and products. During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Luis M. Matos presented evidence that Curran sold clients a total of about \$1.4 million worth of treatment and products after falsely diagnosing a variety of ailments.

The evidence showed that Curran told clients that they had “live parasites” in their blood, that they had severely reduced blood cell counts, or that their immune system was ruined. He told clients that they had or would develop life-threatening diseases or were near death. He falsely claimed in a brochure and other media that he had cured a patient of cancer.

Curran sold what he called “E-water,” which he touted as having the same “synergistic healing properties as the water in Lourdes, France.” He also sold what he called the “Green

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Drink,” which he said contained “a synergistic blend of all natural compounds that support and promote the body’s overall ability to fight and prevent disease.” He claimed to have formulated the Green Drink himself but the evidence showed that it was actually a commercially available dietary supplement.

To execute his scheme, Curran made false claims about his qualifications, educational background, and training in order to foster a belief that he was both a naturopath and a medical doctor. He touted mail order degrees, which he prominently displayed in his office at Richmond Square in Providence. For instance, in 2004, Curran bought three back-dated degrees from Chatworth College of Health Sciences for \$2,650.

Curran, 41, was convicted of 18 counts of wire fraud and three counts of money laundering.

The investigation into Curran’s activities was a joint effort of the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation**, the **Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation**, the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service**, the **FDA Task Force** and the **Rhode Island Department of Health**.

-30-

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